



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Selectmen's Minutes 03/28/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, March 21, 2005
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Chair, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Lyons, Mrs. Greeley, and Mrs. Dias.
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Krepelka

1. Discussion: Town Website Usage and Wish list Survey

Dan Dunn, Information Technology Advisory Committee

Mr. Dunn reported the committee is working on the needs and wants analysis. On

April 6, 2005 a public hearing will be held and additionally the Department Heads and Selectmen will be asked for their recommendations. Starting tomorrow the survey will be on the Town website, e-mail etc.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Dunn announced an opening on the committee for anyone who would like to apply.

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

2. Reappointments: Zoning Board of Appeals

Joseph F. Tulumieri

Susan M. McShane

(terms to expire 3/07)

Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

4. Request: One Additional On Street Overnight Parking Space, 135 Thorndike St.

Michele Phelan

Mr. Greeley moved to approve and have Mrs. Krepelka send letter to the Treasurer's Office to authorize 3 parking permits.

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. Discussion: Proposition 2 1/2

(from 3/7/05 meeting)

Mr. Lyons moved approval on June 11, 2005 to hold a town wide election to determine whether or not "shall the Town of Arlington be allowed to assess an additional \$6 million in real estate property taxes for the purpose of funding the operating budgets of Town and Schools, beginning fiscal year July 1, 2005".

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Lyons explained his plan for the expanded abatements for seniors 70 years or older as part of the stabilization plan.

This will protect the seniors on limited funds from victimizing them with the override.

He will present the plan to Al Tosti and the Finance Committee. The changes include:

Singles: must earn less than \$13,000 a year and have less than \$28,000. in assets.

Change \$13,000. to \$20,000 and \$28,000 to \$40,000.

Married: must earn less than \$15,000 a year and have less than \$30,000 in assets.

Change \$15,000.to \$30,000 and \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Also change the abatement from \$500. To \$1,000.

Mr. Lyons asked Mrs. Krepelka to schedule Mr. Lyons and Mrs. Mahon, after April 2nd, with the Senior Center Association to explain the override and stabilization plan.

6. Warrant Article Hearings

Article 24 Home Rule Legislation Amend Town Manager Act/Finance Committee Membership

Mr. Greeley showed concern with keeping the Finance Committee membership diverse with representation from all precincts.

Mr. Greeley moved a motion that there should be no more than 3 members at large and no more than 2 members from any one precinct. SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Maher will take care of the correct language.

Article 26 Home Rule Legislation/Board of Survey

Mrs. Patricia Worden, 27 Jason Street, read a statement requesting that the Board back this warrant to help control subdivision development and control the number of streets per square mile that Arlington already has. She states the current Board of Survey process encourages loosing open space, no affordable housing on these developments and more street congestion for the Town of Arlington.

Mr. Maher cautioned the Board to keep the current Board of Survey Bylaws that coincides with the Mass. State Laws. He feels that Mrs. Worden should file a subdivision article to help control development and that this is a land use issue.

Mrs. JoAnn Robinson, Arlington Historical Commission, requested the Selectmen consider procedure changes such as taking into consideration what the Historic District reports/decisions are before approving streets.

Mrs. Dias requested Mr. Maher, through the Town Manager, to include the Arlington Historical Commission in process of reports prior to Board of Survey decision.

After discussion by the Selectmen, all agreed they made changes to the process to notify abutters and that they do not want to control development based on subjective decisions. They feel the permit process, Zoning Board of Appeals, etc, should control this.

Mr. Greeley moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 29 Home Rule Legislation/Chapter 31 General Laws

Superintendent Donovan requested the Board back this article to do away with civil service requirements for school clerical positions. During clerical contract negotiations

it was voted by both sides to eliminate the need for civil service for these positions. The contracts were negotiated with similar civil service protections for the clerical positions.

Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (4-1)

Mrs. Mahon voted in the negative.

Mr. Maher stated these petitions have not been very successful in the legislature in the past because of prior leadership status quo sentiment.

Article 30 Revolving Funds

Mr. Greeley moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 31 Revolving Fund/Parking Program

Mr. Greeley moved to table until March 28th meeting SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 32 Revolving Fund/Conservation Commission

Mr. Lyons moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 35 Establish Committee/Private Way Procedures

Mr. Hurd moved to table until the March 28th meeting SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 36 Establish Committee/Revising the Town's Fiscal Organization

Mr. Lyons moved to table until the April 4th meeting when Mr. Bilafer can be present.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 38 Fire Station Renovation Postponement

Mr. Marvin Lewiton, 18 West Street, stated due to lack of information furnished on medical calls and conflicting opinions from the consultant report and Selectmen opinions this article asks for a postponement of the rebuilding. Mr. Lewiton requested information be provided to Town Meeting so that a decision can be made.

Mr. Gordon Jamieson, 163 Scituate Street stated he would vote in favor if the data showed the need.

Mr. John O'Neil, 41 Foster St., suggested a compromise was in order. He suggested perhaps cutting the cost of the rebuild by concentrating on a medical calls/rescue station instead of a fire station.

After some discussion by the Selectmen it was agreed that they feel a need to rebuild the Fire Station for the safety of Arlington and that it has been postponed already.

Mr. Lyons moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Greeley will request a presentation and report concerning the rebuilding at Town Meeting. Mr. Lyons asked the Town Manager to report back on who authorized the past study (1994) and where the money came from.

Article 18 Bylaw Amendment/Noise Abatement

Mr. Greeley asked Mr. Maher to include language including security lighting.

Mr. Greeley moved to postpone until the March 28th meeting. SO VOTED (5-0)

Mrs. Mahon suggested that Article 17 and Article 19 (which Article 18 was rolled into) will be discussed all together.

Correspondence Received

Thomas Steel RCN channel changes Be Rec'd
RCN

Jennifer Hanley Peirce Field Be Rec'd
18 Brattle St.

Johnna Hanley Peirce Field Be Rec'd

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (5-0)
Mrs. Mahon asked Town Counsel to write opinion letters regarding the Peirce Field letters.

Mr. Lyons introduced 3 letters to the Board. They were:

- 1) a letter signed by the members of Congress sent to Governor Romney to not cut CDBG Funds.
 - 2) a letter sent to Jim Nussle, Chairman, House Budget Committee and John Spratt, Ranking Member, House Budget Committee signed by 181 members of Congress organized by Barney Frank. The vote on March 17, 2005 was 218-214 keeping CDBG Funds fully funded for the next year. Mr. Lyons expressed great thanks to Congressman Barney Frank. He did a great job getting this passed in Congress.
 - 3) a letter sent by 58 Senate members to Senators Judd Gregg and Kent Conrad including Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry to continue support of CDBG Funds. The vote was 66-31 in support of favor of the resolution.
- Mr. Lyons expressed he was very pleased with the progress made and the legislatures work to get these votes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maher reported that regarding the TeleDimensions Assessment that:

- the report to be discussed at the March 28, 2005 meeting
- the draft RFP to Comcast be discussed at the April 4, 2005 meeting
in the beginning of May the Board discuss strategy to upcoming negotiations with Comcast.

Mr. Greeley congratulated Mr. Hurd on the success of the Arlington Catholic Hockey Team in the Tournament.
Mr. Greeley also apologized to the Arlington Senior Association for not performing at their St. Patrick's celebration due to not being able to schedule it.

Mr. Hurd confirmed that the Town Manager would have the draft budget to the Selectmen at the April 4th meeting.

Mr. Lyons announced Mr. Hurd is the "Man of the Year" recipient at the Arlington Children's Room for his wonderful work.

Mr. Lyons reported that 16 Superintendents would meet tomorrow regarding the "Reverse the Curse" plan to begin in April to get state cuts reversed.

Mr. Lyons asked that the legislatures come to an April meeting instead of the March 28, 2005 meeting.

Mr. Maher reported that Rep. Marzilli informed him that:

- the Fund Transfer Bill is on the Governor's desk
- the Pacheco Bill is up for final vote on Thursday
- Town Counsel Residency Bill is at the 3rd reading
- the liquor Bill was withdrawn, and the legislature would like to be advised on when it will be voted on at the local level. The Board asked that this be an agenda item on the March 28, 2005 meeting

Mrs. Mahon announced that Mr. Stephen Calabro passed away today and offered condolences to the family.

Mrs. Mahon also asked Mrs. Krepelka to follow up with Drake Village residents regarding the placement of Parking Stickers with the Treasurer's Office.

Mrs. Mahon announced the Arlington High School production of the Music Man starting April 1st and 2nd.

Mr. Maher moved to go into executive session to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body in selling that particular land.

Mrs. Krepelka initiated the roll call at 8:45 PM.

A True Record: Attest

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator